



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## DEC. 11 MEETING OFFERS DETAILS ABOUT FIRE PROTECTION SOFTWARE

The Los Lunas Fire Department has purchased new software called First Due; which includes a feature known as Community Connect.

Community Connect allows residents to create secure profiles to share critical information with first responders, such as medical needs, emergency contacts, and property details.

Department personnel have successfully beta-tested this feature with the Jubilee Community and are now prepared to roll it out to all Village residents.

The Fire Department will host two informational events on Dec. 11, one at 5 p.m. and the second at 5:30 p.m. at Fire Station #2, 465 Sand Sage Rd. NW.

More information about Community Connect will be available and firefighters will assist with signing up.

Fire Chief John Gabaldon said, "Community Connect is a secure easy-to-use platform that allows you to share critical information about your household that will aid first responders."

He added, "By providing information you feel is important about your household, the Fire Department can ensure people are protected."



## THE PURPOSE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

The Village Municipal Court is an often overlooked part of Village Government.

Here is some information about what happens in Municipal Court. The responsibilities of the Village of Los Lunas Municipal Court include:

- Providing adjudication of all violations of all Village Ordinances and criminal offenses
- Arraigning persons cited for Municipal Ordinances violations
- Accepting pleas
- Conducting trials
- Assessing fines and sentences to persons guilty of violating Municipal Ordinances
- Collecting and recording fines
- Answering questions related to the function of the court system.

Current Village Municipal Judge is Avilio Chavez.

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## CHANGES AT RECYCLE CENTER

Effective December 1, 2024, the Los Lunas Recycling Center, located at 315 Don Pasqual Rd NW, will be going through changes to ensure the Village of Los Lunas Solid Waste Division complies with New Mexico Solid Waste Bureau requirements.

The NM Solid Waste Bureau requires the following: "The owner or operator of every recycling facility shall always have a certified operator or representative present while the facility is in operation." (NMAC 20.9.3.27).

These changes are mandated by the New Mexico Solid Waste Bureau and will take effect on Dec. 1.

Los Lunas Recycling Center will NO LONGER be open 24 hours a day seven days a week!

NEW hours of operation for the Village of Los Lunas Recycling Center: Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Recycling Center will be closed on Village Holidays, and operation hours may vary from time to time due to emergency or unforeseen circumstances.

Village staff appreciate your understanding of these changes. Staff members apologize for any inconvenience.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- New Mexico Solid Waste Bureau 505 827-2855
- Village of Los Lunas Solid Waste Division 505 839-5658

The Solid Waste Division will now have staff onsite during hours of operation to assist in educating the recycling community.

The Village only accepts #1 and #2 plastics; however, separate recycling bins for #3 to #7 will be on site so please be prepared to separate plastics!

No plastic bags should be placed in bins!

## VILLAGE MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Village Council has approved their annual resolution establishing the procedures for transactions of all matters presented to the Mayor and Council, establishing detailed rules of conduct, establishing policy and procedure with reference to notice of general, special, and emergency meetings of the Village Council.

- The Open Meetings Resolution states that, all meetings of a quorum of members of any board, council, commission, administrative adjudicatory body or other policymaking body of any state or local public agency held for the purpose of formulating public policy, discussing public business or for the purpose of taking any action with the authority of or the delegated authority of such body, are declared to be public meetings open to the public always; and
- Any meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act at which the discussion or adoption of any proposed ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation for formal action shall be held only after reasonable notice to the public; and the Open Meetings Act requires the Mayor and Council to determine annually what constitutes reasonable notice of its public meetings.

The resolution includes the following additional provisions:

- All meetings shall be held at the Village of Los Lunas Council Chamber located at 660 Main Street NW, Los Lunas, and/or via the Internet using appropriate virtual meeting or video conferencing software, at 6 p.m., or as indicated in the meeting notice.
- Unless otherwise specified, two regular meetings shall be held each month. The agenda will be available at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting, posted at the following locations: the bulletin board in the lobby of the Village Hall, located at 660 Main Street NW, Los Lunas; posted on the bulletin board at the Los Lunas Public Library located at 460 Main NE and posted on the Village of Los Lunas website ([www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)).
- Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or a majority of the council members upon 72 hours' notice. The notice for all special meetings shall include an agenda for the meeting or information on how the public may obtain a copy of the agenda.
- Emergency meetings will be called only under unforeseen circumstances that demand immediate action to protect the health, safety and property of citizens or to protect the public body from substantial financial loss.

**LOS LUNAS**  
**RECYCLING CENTER**

***NO longer open 24 hours  
a day seven days a week.***

***NEW hours of operation:  
Monday through Friday:  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday:  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.***

**CLOSED HOLIDAYS**

**MUSEUM OF  
HERITAGE & ARTS**

**GIFT SHOP**

**COME SEE US TO  
FIND THAT  
SPECIAL GIFT!**



# 2025 COUNCIL MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

## JANUARY

Council Meetings: 1/16 & 1/30  
 Holiday(s): 1/1 – New Year's Day  
 1/20 – Martin Luther King Day

## FEBRUARY

Council Meetings: 2/13 & 2/27  
 Holiday(s): 2/17 – Presidents' Day

## MARCH

Council Meetings: 3/13 & 3/27

## APRIL

Council Meetings: 4/10 & 4/24  
 Holiday(s): 4/18 Good Friday

## MAY

Council Meetings: 5/8 & 5/22  
 Holiday(s): 5/26 Memorial Day

## JUNE

Council Meetings: 6/12 & 6/26  
 Holiday(s): 6/19 Juneteenth

## JULY

Council Meetings: 7/10 & 7/24  
 Holiday(s): 7/4 Independence Day

## AUGUST

Council Meetings: 8/7 & 8/21

## SEPTEMBER

Council Meetings: 9/4 & 9/18  
 Holiday(s): 9/1 Labor Day

## OCTOBER

Council Meetings: 10/9 & 10/23

## NOVEMBER

Council Meetings: 11/6 & 11/20  
 Holiday(s): 11/11 – Veterans Day  
 11/27 & 11/28 – Thanksgiving Holiday

## DECEMBER

Council Meetings: 12/4 & 12/18  
 Holiday(s): 12/24 & 12/25 - Christmas Holiday

# WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE VILLAGE MUSEUM

The Village Museum of Heritage & Arts offers a look at individuals who served in the Armed Forces from different eras, many who were born and raised in Valencia County. This exhibit contains stories of courage under fire, gallantry, service and honor.

In addition, artifacts from different families that have been donated or loaned to the museum will be on display.

The 12th Annual Juried Art show, titled Tales through Time, will be on display Nov. 30 through Jan. 4.

The Southwest Model Railroad Club train display starts in early December.

What can your museum do for you? The museum provides patrons opportunities to use museum resources.

Some available resources are computer based while others are genealogical society publications with marriage, baptismal and census records from the mid to late 1700s to early 1900s from locations around New Mexico.

The museum's digital archives house a number of oral histories of local residents.

The museum wants to preserve local history. If you are interested in sharing your history, contact the museum at 505 352-7720 or visit the museum under the downtown water tower at the intersection of Main Street and Luna Avenue.

And remember the Museum Gift Shop if you are looking for something special for holiday gifting.

# PEDESTRIANS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES

The Village Council has approved an ordinance meant to promote pedestrian safety on certain narrow medians on higher speed-roadways in the Village.

New Mexico has been among the worst states for pedestrian fatalities for several years, including 2023, with the highest rate of pedestrian deaths per 100,000 residents in the country.

One source of pedestrian deaths or injuries is the occupation of medians that are not designed for use by pedestrians.

The new ordinance is titled Pedestrians' Rights and Duties and includes the following:

- It is unlawful for any person to stand in any travel lane of a street, highway, or controlled access roadway or in any travel lane of the exit or entrance ramps thereto or to otherwise enter the travel lane of a street, highway, or controlled access roadway or in any travel lane of the exit or entrance ramps except for the purpose of legally crossing.
- It is unlawful for any person to access, use, occupy, congregate or assemble on any median that is located on any roadway with the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or greater and that does not possess a flat area of at least four feet in diameter.

## A BIT OF LOS LUNAS HISTORY

“A Cultural & Economic History of Los Lunas” was written by Los Lunas Library Director Cynthia Shetter and can be found on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). This newsletter runs excerpts from Shetter’s writing. This month we continue telling you about the Village mayors.

### Mayors of Los Lunas:

#### Don Diego Aragon (1872 - 1951) Served 1932 - 1934

Diego Aragon was born in Valencia on November 13, 1872 and was raised in Los Lunas. He married Teresa Vigil of Valencia, and together they had seven children. Don Aragon was engaged in business in Los Lunas and operated a ranch in the eastern part of Valencia County.

Aragon was the proprietor of a saloon called the “American Bar,” which was located on the site now occupied by the Los Lunas Public Library. He also operated the only hotel that Los Lunas had for many years and with his brother-in-law, Abel Vigil, he entered a partnership in the grocery business.

*Don Diego spent many years in public service in Valencia County and to the State of New Mexico, whether as a County Assessor, County Commissioner, Village Councilman, or Aide-de-Camp to four New Mexico Governors. His contributions to Los Lunas are memorialized by a street and a shopping center bearing his name.*

#### José Castillo (1895 - 1969) Served 1934 - 1936

The second child born to Emiliano and Sofia Castillo, José Castillo was born in Los Lunas on September 10, 1895. In 1917, following America’s entry in the First World War, he was inducted in the United States Army, serving in Company H, 30th Infantry Regiment. From June 1918 until the American Expeditionary Force’s final offensive in the Meuse-Argonne sector in October 1918, Castillo’s unit fought on the Western Front. Upon returning to America in the summer of 1919, Castillo was discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas.

After his homecoming, Castillo married Sofia Brusuelas and resumed his work delivering groceries and dry goods for his father’s store in a horse-drawn wagon and later managed the general store E. Castillo and Sons for his family.

*As the fourth Mayor of Los Lunas, he followed the precedent established by his three predecessors by serving only one term in office. Apart from the grocery business, Castillo was an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council in Belen.*

## GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

We all spend more at certain times of the year. The Holiday Season is usually a time for more spending.

Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) is imposed on goods and services throughout New Mexico, including the Village of Los Lunas. Revenue collected from GRT benefits our local communities.

The minimum combined 2024 sales tax rate for Los Lunas is 8.43%, which is the total of state, county and municipal tax rates. The New Mexico sale tax rate is 4.88%. The Valencia County rate is 1.38%, and the Los Lunas rate is 2.18%.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Los Lunas Public Library

Open Monday through Saturday  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
460 Main St. NE 505 839-3850  
November Teen Events at Library  
Include After School  
Maker Events & STEAM Classes

### Thursday & Friday Nov. 28 & 29

**Thanksgiving Holiday**  
Village Offices Closed  
Thursday Garbage picked up  
Wednesday, Nov. 27  
Friday Garbage picked up  
Monday, Dec. 2

### Village Christmas Light Parade

Saturday, Dec 7 Main Street  
Registration Now Open

### Tuesday & Wednesday

**Dec. 24 & Dec. 25**  
**Christmas Holiday**  
Village Offices Closed  
Tuesday Garbage picked up  
Monday, Dec. 23  
Wednesday Garbage picked up  
Thursday, Dec. 26

### Wednesday, Jan 1, 2025

**New Years Holiday**  
Village Offices Closed  
Wednesday Garbage picked up  
Tuesday, Jan. 2

### Monday, Jan. 20

**Martin Luther King Day**  
Village Offices Closed  
Monday Garbage picked up  
Tuesday, Jan. 21

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 & 21, 2024  
6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 & 19, 2024  
6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16 & 30, 2024  
660 Main St. NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings will be virtual and  
in-person. Check Village website for  
agenda [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).